



City Council of Gibraltar



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1949

BY

**JAMES A. DURANTE, M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).**

Medical Officer of Health (Acting),

**with which is included the Report of the City
Pathologist-Analyst.**

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E. H. DAVIS, Esq.

PREFACE

I have the honour to present this report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1949, which being the first annual report to be submitted by a civilian Medical Officer of Health may in truth be said to make an epoch in the history of the Public Health Services of the City, and I trust it may not be deemed inopportune when I venture to say that as such it appears appropriate that a physician born and bred in Gibraltar, who has spent almost all his professional life in the service of its people, should have been destined to compile it.

Judged solely on the evidence of statistical records, the health of the City may be considered to have been satisfactory throughout the year. The birth rate shows little difference as compared with last year's, the death rate has kept its previous consistently low level and, with the exception of tuberculosis, the incidence of the infectious, notifiable diseases has been far lower than in 1948, but the finding of an unusual number of children suffering from rheumatic fever (School Medical Officer's Report), the small increase in the infantile death rate and particularly the marked rise in neo-natal deaths, are ominous signs that all is not as well as appears, and indicate the existence of environmental and social influences inimical to health which demand the utmost vigilance and increased efforts by all concerned with the health and welfare of the people to counteract them.

In this respect, priority of place must undoubtedly be given to the unsatisfactory state of dwellings and the prevalent gross overcrowding, which in spite of feverish efforts at building and reconstruction, like Damocle's Sword hangs threateningly over our heads, and not only undermine the physical health but adversely affect states pertaining to mind and morale, unassessable by figures, on which the happiness and welfare of the people greatly depend.

For it takes but little imagination to envisage the mental state and attitude to life of many who, of necessity, are compelled to live, or rather exist, herded together in rooms with little air and less light, often lacking the facilities to meet the elementary necessities of life and deprived of that privacy which is not only a comfort to the mind, but often a physical necessity, and it speaks well for the people of Gibraltar that notwithstanding these adverse factors and difficulties the general standard of do-

mestic and personal hygiene has been maintained at a comparatively high level, thus contributing greatly to the prevention of disease.

Public Health is not, as often erroneously considered, the sole concern of a small specialist staff who devote their time to its many sided aspects, but the immediate interest of each and every member of the community whom they serve and on whose intelligent and willing cooperation the success or failure of the many complex measures instituted for the benefit of one and all depend.

No legislation, however wisely enacted or even dictatorially enforced can supplant or substitute the personal efforts of each individual for the common weal, and apropos of this the following extract from a recent article by Dr. A. L. Banks, Professor of Human Ecology, University of Cambridge, appears to me pertinent and deserving careful attention.

“We live in a world of extremes: a world which it is possible to circumnavigate in a few hours: a world in which the carelessness or ignorance of one person may cause disease or death for many. The vigilance of the public health services must therefore be reinforced by that *lay faculty of educated common sense* in order that the delicate balance of our modern health organisation may not be upset by the ignorance or folly of the people those services are designed to protect.”

In conclusion I would extend my thanks to all who have contributed to the compilation of this report and to the many who by their actions and sympathetic encouragement have facilitated the onerous and often difficult work of the Health Department staff and helped to smooth the way, whilst I would earnestly request the few who have been luke-warm or unappreciative to review their attitude from the broadest human aspect, bearing in mind that many things which appear insignificant and not to matter may by their summation eventually constitute situations which can reflect adversely on the health and welfare of the community and of necessity on themselves and theirs as members thereof.

J. A. DURANTE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
City Hall,
Gibraltar, 29th April, 1950.

City Council of Gibraltar

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1949

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar ...	24,585 persons
Estimated Fixed Population of Gibraltar ...	22,208 persons
Births in Fixed Population	215 males 193 females
Total ...	408
Birth rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	18.37
Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	181
Death rate per 1,000 of Fixed Civil Population ...	8.15
Crude Death rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population...	7.52
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	0.32
Infantile Mortality Rate	34.2

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1949.

The following weather summary and tables have been kindly supplied by the Air Ministry's Meteorologist at Gibraltar.

In 1949, duration of sunshine and average temperatures were about the same as 1948, but rainfall was about six inches more. Easterly winds were again rather more predominant than Westerlies and the relative humidity of the atmosphere was about five per cent less in 1949.

Both January and February were mainly fair months with rainfall below normal. Although weather in March became unsettled, the rainfall was still below average.

April rainfall was nearly normal; sunshine was rather deficient in both March and April.

Easterly winds predominated throughout the first four months of the year and often reached gale force.

May, June and July were all mainly fine months; the latter month was very warm with the high average maximum of 84°F.

August continued fine apart from a thundery spell about the middle of the month; the maximum temperatures on 17th, 18th, and 19th were noteworthy, being 97°, 98° and 99°F respectively. A spell of Easterly winds during this month lasted from the 7th to the end of the month.

September was thundery: an exceptionally heavy thunderstorm occurred on the 9th, when 3.83 inches of rain fell in an hour and a half.

October was fair with no measurable rainfall. November continued fair for the first half of the month, but over six inches of rain fell during the rest of the month. A temperature of 84°F was recorded on the 12th November.

December weather was very mixed, rain, snow and gales being reported; (the snow was observed on the upper slopes of the Rock, but not at sea level). Rain fell at the beginning of the month; on the 8th the temperature reached 70°F, but on the 12th it fell to 36°F with snow and Easterly gales reported. Another rainy spell set in on Christmas Eve and continued to the end of the month.

Total rainfall for 1949 was 31.54 inches, compared with 25.31 inches in 1948.

Months	Mean Pres. at MSL Milli- bars	TEMPERATURE OF										REL. HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (EIGHTHS)									
		MEANS					HIGHEST		LOWEST																
		Dry		Bulb		Max.	Min.	Mean of A & B	Date	Min	Date									Min on grass	Date				
		0300	0900	1500	2100																				
		0300	0900	1500	2100									0300	0900	1500	2100								
January	1022.9	52.7	51.0	54.6	52.2	60.1	50.9	55.5	66	5, 16, 17	44	3, 4, 12, 13th	34	13, 15	86	79	72	83	2.7	4.6	3.5	1500	0900	0300	2100
February	1025.7	54.7	56.5	61.4	56.8	62.6	52.4	57.5	67	1st	45	1, 15th	36	1, 2, 15	84	79	71	81	3.1	3.9	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
March	1016.2	56.2	58.3	62.2	58.2	63.5	54.7	59.1	72	2nd	48	22nd	39	3rd	81	78	68	78	4.3	5.5	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.3
April	1017.8	57.0	58.9	60.7	58.6	69.4	57.7	63.5	82	6th	21	28th	43	6th	83	76	67	79	3.8	4.8	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	3.6
May	1014.8	58.2	60.5	62.7	59.7	73.3	59.1	66.2	81	22, 26th	52	16th	45	3rd	83	70	60	79	2.5	4.0	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	2.8
June	1016.7	65.9	72.4	77.7	69.6	79.6	63.8	71.7	84	17, 22nd	58	2, 3, 4, 5th	50	5, 22	89	73	61	80	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.0
July	1016.4	71.0	76.8	82.0	74.3	84.0	69.1	76.5	91	15, 18th	63	21st	60	7, 21	82	70	59	76	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.3
August	1016.4	75.1	79.3	83.6	77.1	86.5	73.2	79.9	99	19th	67	5, 7, 29th	61	7th	82	75	67	81	2.4	3.5	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0
September ...	1015.9	70.6	74.3	80.4	73.2	82.4	68.8	75.6	90	1st	63	23, 25, 29, 30th	57	29th	87	77	61	81	2.8	4.0	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	2.6
October	1020.2	65.7	68.8	73.9	67.9	75.4	63.7	69.5	82	20th	54	27th	49	27th	90	81	73	87	2.5	4.3	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2.5
November	1017.0	58.9	61.0	67.0	61.2	68.8	56.2	62.5	84	12th	46	21st	39	21st	89	82	72	86	3.3	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	3.6
December	1018.0	55.0	55.8	60.5	56.3	61.9	53.2	57.5	70	8th	36	12th	34	12th	86	85	76	85	4.1	5.7	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.4
Year	1018.2	61.7	64.5	68.9	63.8	72.3	60.2	66.3	99	19th Aug.	36	12th Dec.	34	13, 15 Jan 12 Dec	85	77	67	81	2.9	4.1	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.0

Months	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		W E A T H E R								
	Total mm.	Max in 24 h	Date	Daily Mean	o/o of Poss	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	58.8	26.7	1	5.30	53.2	7	0	0	1	0	9	1	0	0
Feb	60.5	48.9	15	6.63	61.2	7	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
Mar	68.4	22.0	8	4.77	40.5	11	0	0	1	0	4	2	0	0
April	64.4	36.5	16	6.83	51.9	7	0	0	1	2	3	0	0	0
May	8.6	2.7	11	10.08	71.4	8	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
June	1.6	1.1	30	11.40	78.2	3	0	0	1	0	11	0	0	0
July	0.1	0.1	9	11.34	79.1	1	0	0	0	0	13	0	1	0
Aug	3.9	3.9	14	10.10	74.6	1	0	0	2	0	7	0	3	0
Sept	142.0	97.3	9	8.09	65.0	9	0	0	7	0	6	0	0	0
Oct	Trace		30	7.73	68.4	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Nov	154.9	69.0	18	6.26	60.5	7	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Dec	237.8	78.8	29	3.77	38.8	14	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Year	801.0	97.3	9th Sept	7.70	61.9	76	0	0	15	3	68	3	4	0

WIND

Frequency at 0300, 0900, 1500 & 2100.

Force 1—3 = 1—10 Knots. Force 4—5 = 11—21 Knots. Force 6—7 = 22—33 Knots.

Force 8 = 34—40 Knots.

MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	1	29	26	61	7	3	8	55	2	3	17	24	5
February	—	23	37	48	4	3	7	63	—	—	12	22	1
March	3	18	52	37	4	4	8	76	—	3	11	17	1
April	—	10	56	46	8	3	11	61	3	10	8	14	2
May	—	2	72	44	6	—	6	35	1	4	20	49	3
June	—	1	48	69	2	—	10	38	2	8	29	31	—
July	—	—	53	69	2	—	17	49	—	11	26	17	2
August	—	—	56	64	—	—	23	61	—	6	20	8	1
September	—	1	24	89	6	1	10	23	3	10	33	30	4
October	—	1	50	67	5	2	20	48	—	5	18	26	—
November	—	4	49	59	8	3	13	12	—	3	23	53	5
December	—	17	51	51	5	4	6	46	1	—	13	37	12
Year	4	106	574	704	61	23	139	567	12	73	230	328	36

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population

These statistics are based on the civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the records of the Police Registration Office. They do not include personnel of His Majesty's Forces or non-resident aliens.

The civil population at the end of the year was constituted as follows :—

			<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Totals</i>
British Subjects	...	...	7,441	8,835	5,932	22,208
Resident Aliens	...	...	1,008	1,308	61	2,377
Totals ...			8,449	10,143	5,993	24,585

Average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily :—

1946	.....	7,500
1947	.....	8,400
1948	.....	8,300
1949	.....	9,545

It will be noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of daily entrants as compared with the previous three years.

The alterations in population since 1931 are shown below : -

How Estimated		British Subjects Fixed Population	Alien Subjects Floating Population	Total Population
Census April 1931		16,188	1,425	17,613
Police Estimate end of	1932	15,143	1,466	16,609
do.	1933	15,071	1,326	16,397
do.	1934	14,790	1,057	15,847
do.	1935	15,735	1,130	16,865
do.	1936	16,875	2,319	19,194
do.	1937	16,792	2,749	19,541
do.	1938	17,222	3,017	20,239
do.	1939	18,125	2,315	20,440
1940 to 1944 Civil population evacuated during war years				
Police Estimate end of	1945	17,448	1,784	19,232
do.	1946	19,269	1,964	21,233
do.	1947	20,316	2,216	22,532
do.	1948	21,472	2,228	23,700
do.	1949	22,208	2,377	24,585

The increase of population is accounted for mainly by the return of the remaining evacuees from the United Kingdom and Tangier.

Deaths

One hundred and eighty-one deaths were registered as having occurred in the British civil population amounting to 8.15 per thousand. Resident aliens provided four deaths (1.68 per thousand) equalling a total of one hundred and eighty-five deaths or 7.52 per thousand of population. Twelve deaths occurred amongst non-resident aliens.

The principal causes of death were :—

Diseases of the circulatory system	56
Cancer	25
Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	17
Senility	17
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8

The chief causes of death were conditions connected with the circulatory system and of these only seven occurred in persons under fifty-five years of age.

Cancer and other malignant tumours caused twenty five deaths whilst pulmonary tuberculosis accounted for eight, of which six occurred in young subjects between fifteen and thirty-five years of age.

Fifty-one point eight of the total number of deaths occurred in persons over sixty-five years.

The crude death rate for the quinqueniums immediately preceding and following the evacuation has been :—

	<i>Fixed Population.</i>	<i>Total Population.</i>
1935	16.20	15.71
1936	15.82	15.47
1937	15.24	14.93
1938	14.28	13.74
1939	15.22	14.25

Evacuation Period.

1945	8.88	8.42
1946	9.18	8.8
1947	7.18	6.56
1948	8.19	7.76
1949	8.15	7.52

The sustained marked fall in the death rate since repatriation is indeed striking and reflects favourably on the efficiency of the medical and preventive services in facing admittedly difficult and adverse conditions.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	17	April	13
February	17	May	9
March	13	June	15
<hr/>		<hr/>	
1st Qtr. ...	47	2nd Qtr. ...	37
<hr/>		<hr/>	
July	15	October	15
August	25	November	16
September	16	December	26
<hr/>		<hr/>	
3rd Qtr. ...	56	4th Qtr. ...	57
<hr/>		<hr/>	

Includes 12 deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into the Town for treatment.

Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for the Past Sixteen Years

	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality (per 1,000)</i>
1933	23.68	14.94	39.2
1934	25.8	14.51	54.8
1935	16.9	15.71	67.4
1936	19.3	15.47	62.09
1937	22.69	14.93	68.24
1938	21.07	13.73	74.38
1939	20.85	14.25	79.36

Period of evacuation of civil population.

1945	34.84	8.42	32.89
1946	21.38	8.8	36.4
1947	18.75	6.56	47.24
1948	17.27 32	7.67	29.56
1949	18.37	8.15	34.2

Births

Four hundred and eight children, 215 males and 193 females were born from the civil population in 1949, providing a birth rate of 18.37 per 1,000 fixed population. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 372 and 17.32 respectively.

The distribution of births between hospitals, private practitioners and midwives, was as follows:—

Colonial Hospital	347
Military Hospital	6
Medical Practitioners	14
Midwives	41
	408

There has been a marked decrease in domiciliary confinements since repatriation which is accounted for by the lack of adequate accommodation, shortage of medical practitioners and qualified midwives and increased hospital facilities.

Illegitimate Births

Illegitimate births numbered 15 providing 3.69 percent of all births. Still births are not registerable in Gibraltar at present.

Infant Mortality

There has been an appreciable increase in the infantile mortality in 1949.

Fourteen infants died before attaining their first year, amounting to an infantile mortality rate of 34.2 per 1,000. The corresponding figures for 1948 were 11 and 29.56 respectively.

The ages and causes of death were as follows :—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1/2 weeks	2/3 weeks	3/4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1/3 months	3/6 months	6/9 months	9/12 months	Total under one year
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3				3					3
Prematurity	5				5					5
Atelectasis	2				2					2
Meningitis									1	1
Gastro-Enteritis						1		1		2
Dysentery									1	1
Totals...	10				10	1		1	2	14

It is significant that ten of these deaths, or 71.4 per cent of the total number recorded, occurred in the first week of life from congenital conditions, providing a neonatal mortality rate of 24.2 per thousand, nearly double the rate of 13.5 for the previous year. This cannot but be considered as indicating the existence of physical and social environmental factors inimical to the health of the mothers and the antenatal development of their infants which calls for an intensification of the activities not only of the maternity and infant welfare services but also or even more so of the housing and social welfare organisations; for these cannot be dissociated and, of necessity, the success of the former must to a great extent depend on the general improvement in accommodation and the standard of living achieved by the work of the latter.

The infantile mortality and neonatal death rates for the quinquennium 1945—1949 are tabulated below :—

	Infantile Mortality.	Neonatal Mortality.
1945	32.89	16.4
1946	36.4	9.7
1947	47.2	34.1
1948	29.56	13.5
1949	34.2	24.2

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

These services remain a Colonial Government commitment and are operated under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital Services. The arrangement favours the integration of the preventive and curative organisations concerned.

Maternity

The physician in charge of the Maternity Department at the Colonial Hospital has kindly supplied the following information.

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Preparations of calcium, iron and vitamin preparations were administered to those who required them.

The majority of mothers were delivered in hospital. A few cases were attended in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were 5 registered midwives engaged in private practice.

The average stay in hospital was seven days.

There was one maternal death caused by syncope due to acute cardiac failure, the result of prolonged labour.

Child Welfare and School Medical Services

That these services which may be said to have been organized only recently are doing excellent work is indicated by the increase in the number of school children who have been found in good physical health on medical examination—86 percent as compared to 66.4 percent the previous year—also, by the significant decrease in the incidence of dental caries amongst school children.

Encouraging as this is, the increased incidence of rheumatic fever, a disease which has in the past been considered by all practising clinicians a comparative rarity in Gibraltar, must be viewed with apprehension and cannot but be associated with the unsatisfactory housing conditions, and particularly with the use of damp and basement tenements as human dwellings which is, unfortunately, far too common at present.

Immunisation of Infants

Though, apparently, parents are having their children inoculated against whooping cough the anti-diphtheritic immunisation of infants has declined to an undesirable extent this year. This cannot wholly be accounted for by occasional shortage of vaccine and is more probably due to the striking freedom from diphtheria enjoyed by Gibraltar since repatriation as compared with the continued occurrence of whooping cough, which undoubtedly urges mothers to seek immediate protection for their babies against the prevailing malady. Such an "out of sight out of mind" attitude cannot be allowed to prevail and no efforts should be spared to encourage and persuade parents to have their children immunised against this fell disease.

I am indebted to Dr. Valentine, Chief Medical Officer to the Colonial Government, Dr. F. A. Ruggeri, School Medical Officer and Dr. Mary Voigt, Child Welfare Officer, for the following reports.

Child Welfare Clinics

The activities of the Child Welfare Clinics were maintained throughout the year with three sessions a week at the Town Clinic in the Exchange Building and one session a week at the South Clinic in Cumberland Road.

Medical advice was given regarding every child under five years brought for examination, and in addition, Health Visitors and their assistants visited homes to help and advise mothers on problems in the care and upbringing of infants and young children.

Clinics were very well attended. Voluntary helpers gave unstintingly of their time and service, and this was of great assistance to the staff.

Milk food and certain medical preparations (calcium, iron, Vitamin C., gentian violet, etc.), have been supplied free or at reduced cost in necessitous cases. Other medicines prescribed were issued from the dispensary at the Colonial Hospital. Occasionally the demand outran the supply. This was especially so in the case of anti-diphtheritic vaccine, and unfortunately for a time these immunisations could not be carried out.

Pertussis vaccine was supplied free of charge, whereas in the previous year this immunisation was carried out only in those cases for which the mothers themselves provided the vaccine. This year it was administered alone or in combination with diphtheria vaccine.

As necessary, patients were referred to the various departments of the Colonial Hospital, and in certain cases for admission to the Children's Ward.

A high-light of the year was the 23rd December, when Father Christmas himself, with other distinguished visitors, came to the Centre. The Clinic was marvellously transformed with bright colour and a beautifully decorated and lighted Christmas tree surrounded by gay boxes, from which a few hundred presents were handed to the long procession of children. Thanks were expressed to those who so willingly and generously combined, with their gifts and tireless effort, to make this Christmas party so great a success.

<i>Attendances at</i>	<i>Number on register</i>	<i>Number Attended</i>
Town Clinic	1,037	7,918
South Clinic	224	1,731
	<hr/> 1,261	<hr/> 9,649

Home Visits

Primary	350
Under 1 year	387
Over 1 year	956
Special	59
Antenatal	38
Houses	1,337
Fruitless	106
Removals	17

Immunisations

<i>Diphtheria vaccine</i>	1st dose	20
	2nd dose	9
<i>Diphtheria-Pertussis (combined)</i>	1st dose	7
	2nd dose	3
	3rd dose	2
<i>Pertussis</i>	1st dose	50
	2nd dose	35
	3rd dose	22

Medical Inspection of School Children

During the year all the schools were visited twice, in the course of which visits, one thousand two hundred and thirty-one children were medically examined. The attendance of the parents was cordially invited.

One thousand and fifty-eight children (86%) were found to be in good physical health; one hundred and sixty-nine

(13.7%) were recorded as fair, and four (0.3%) were in a poor state of health.

Regular inspections were made by the School Nurse. No less than three thousand eight hundred and eighty-six children were inspected for cleanliness and one thousand an eighty-seven were tested for defects of vision.

Cases requiring general treatment were referred either to their own doctors or to the clinic for sick children.

Cases requiring special investigation were referred to special clinics—

Ophthalmic clinic	221 cases.
Dental clinics	114 „
Chest clinic	39 „

Many children were found to have enlarged tonsils, but only those exhibiting gross symptoms were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Rheumatic fever was previously regarded as very rare in Gibraltar, but six children gave signs of past attacks, and five others had acute attacks requiring home or hospital treatment. The unsatisfactory living conditions coupled with the high humidity may be accepted as causal factors. If the incidence of rheumatic carditis should increase it may be advisable to consider making this disease notifiable.

Tonics, calcium and vitamin preparations were prescribed for children who appeared under-nourished. Preparations containing iron were administered more freely in view of the prevalence of sub-clinical anaemia.

The main defects, as observed, are tabulated below :—

Ear, Nose and Throat

Enlarged tonsils	... ..	453
Nasal obstruction	... ..	14
Enlarged cervical glands	... ..	41
Otitis—media et externa	... ..	8
Cases referred	... ..	33

Dental Caries, Affections of the Gums

Caries, toothache, gum diseases	... ..	197
Cases referred	... ..	114

Eyes

Defective vision	... ..	196
Strabismus	... ..	8
Other abnormalities	... ..	4
Cases referred	... ..	211

Heart

Functional Murmurs	...	...	...	...	15
Rheumatic cases	...	...	...	...	11
Congenital Morbus Cordis	...	...	...	...	2

Lungs and Mediastinum

Screened	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Skeletal deformities

Check visits for old cases...	6
Minor degrees of Genu valgum, Varum	4

<i>Asthma</i>	12
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Dental Work

School children requiring dental treatment were referred to the Dental Surgeons (Mr. Danino and Mr. Cochrane). They attended at the private surgeries by appointment—Mr. Danino on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.30 a.m.—Mr. Cochrane on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30 a.m.

Summary of Dental Treatment

<i>Dental Surgeon</i>	<i>Sessions for Treatment</i>	<i>Teeth Conserved</i>	<i>Teeth Extracted</i>	<i>Attendance for Scaling and Gum Treatment</i>
Mr. Danino ...	98	810	173	92
Mr. Cochrane ...	62	397	171	73

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1949, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1 year & under 5	5 yrs. under 15	15 yrs. under 25	25 yrs. under 35	35 yrs. under 45	45 yrs. under 55	55 yrs. under 65	65 yrs. under 75	75 yrs. & over
		M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F	M F
I. Infective & Parasitic Diseases											
1. Typhoid & other Paratyphoid Fevers ...	1				1						
6. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	8				1	3 2	1	1			
7. All other forms of tuberculosis ...	1					1					
9. Dysentery ...	1	1									
11. Syphilis ...	1							1			
17. Other infective or Parasitic Diseases	1						1				
II. Cancer & Other Tumours											
18. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the buccal cavity and pharynx ...	2								1		1
19. Cancer and other malignant tumours of the digestive organs & peritoneum ...	8								2 1	1	1
20. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the respiratory system ...	6								4	1 1	
21. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the uterus ...	3						1			2	
22. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the breast ...	3							1	1		1
23. Cancer & other malignant tumours of other or unspecified organs ...	3						1		1	1	
III. Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and of the Endocrine Glands, Other General Diseases & Vitamin—Deficiency Diseases											
27. Diabetes Mellitus ...	7								2 1	4	
IV. Diseases of the Blood & Blood Forming Organs											
31. Pernicious & Other Anaemias ...	1										1
VI. Diseases of the Nervous System & Sense Organs											
35. Non-meningococcal Meningitis ...	2		1				1				
37. Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin ...	17	1	2					2	3	3 1	5
VII. Diseases of the Circulatory System											
43. Chronic affections of the valves & endocardium ...	7							1	1 1	1	3
44. Diseases of the Myocardium including aneurism of the heart ...	16							1	3 1	6 2	3
45. Diseases of coronary arteries & angina pectoris ...	8						1	1	2	1 3	1 1
46. Other diseases of the heart ...	4							1	1		5
47. Arteriosclerosis and gangrene ...	15							1	2	5 2	2
48. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	6							1	2 1		
VIII. Diseases of the Respiratory System											
49. Bronchitis ...	4							1		1 1	1
50. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia ...	7					1		1		1	3
52. Other Diseases of Respiratory System except Tuberculosis ...	8						1	1 1	3	1	1
IX. Diseases of the Digestive System											
53. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum ...	3							2			1
54. Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs of age)	2		2								
56. Appendicitis ...	1						1	1			1
57. Hernia, intestinal obstruction ...	2								1		
58. Cirrhosis of the liver ...	1									1	1
60. Other diseases of the digestive system...	2										
X. Diseases of the Urinary & Genital Systems (not venereal, or connected with pregnancy or puerperium).											
61. Nephritis ...	2								1		1
62. Other diseases of the kidneys and ureters ...	2										2
XI. Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperal State											
68. Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy ...	1					1					
XII. Diseases of the Skin & Cellular Tissue											
73. Diseases of the skin and cellular tissue ...	1								1		
XIII. Diseases of the Bones and Organs of Movement											
74. Diseases of the bones and organs of movement except tuberculosis and rheumatism ...	1							1			
XV. Diseases Peculiar to the First Year of Life											
76. Congenital debility ...	2		2								
77. Premature birth (still-births excluded) ...	5		3								
XVI. Senility, Old Age											
80. Senility, old age ...	17									2 1	5 9
XVII. Violent or Accidental Deaths											
84. Violent or accidental deaths (automobile accidents excepted) ...	3			1				1			1
	185	4 10		1	1 1	5 3	6 2	12 8	23 13	21 21	14 40

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

An average of twenty seven aged and infirm women are housed by the Government at Beriro's Home where they receive the necessary care and treatment. Because there is at present no provision for the care of aged male persons and Beriro's Home is not large enough to house all the women, a number of men and some women have to be looked after at the Colonial Hospital and occupy beds which should be devoted to acute cases.

The plight of some of these old folks, many of whom have put in a good day's work in the "Lord's Vineyard" and now find themselves (often through no fault of their own) wandering about unwanted and unkempt—nobody's bairns—is indeed pathetic, and it is imperative that plans which are under consideration for the erection of homes for the aged should be implemented without delay, providing for these old people a haven of rest with such care and amenities as may assuage the eve of their lives.

The care of the aged has been, and should remain predominantly, a domestic affair. This cannot and should not be solved entirely by the provision of homes for the purpose; but, changes in social and economic circumstances coupled with limited dwelling space at home render the domestic care of the aged, and particularly of those who are also infirm, increasingly difficult.

The most casual glance at the comparative death rates shown in the table on page 7 is sufficient to render evident the extent of the problem which will face the community in the future as the proportion of the aged increases progressively in relation to the younger elements of the population. Though this problem is not unique to Gibraltar it is rendered more difficult here since employments suitable for old people are few and insufficient to meet requirements.

It appears, therefore, necessary that medical men, and others concerned with the welfare of the aged, give due thought and consideration to measures designed to preserve their health and self dependency as long as possible. Such measures supplemented by the provision of old age pensions, when necessary, would render their lives happier by maintaining their self-respect and interests. They would also render possible—not to say encourage—responsible relatives to continue to provide a home for them thus reducing to a great extent the necessity for institutional patronage.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases has been low this year, remarkably so in the case of diphtheria, of which no notifications have been received, thereby establishing a record.

One hundred and eighty-one cases, seventy-one less than in 1948, have been notified; an incidence of 7.36 per thousand. There were ten deaths, of which eight were due to pulmonary tuberculosis. The zymotic death rate was .12 per thousand.

Pertussis and chicken-pox which were outstandingly prevalent during the winter and spring accounted for fifty-two and forty-four of these notifications respectively.

The only disquieting feature in the epidemiological picture has been an increase in the number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and enteric fever which, though small, must be regarded with some concern when associated with the general state of overcrowding.

The years 1945 to 1949 have furnished 102, 103, 168, 252 and 181 notifications of infectious diseases respectively.

Enteric Fever

Ten cases of typhoid, one of which proved fatal, and four of paratyphoid fever have been notified during the year. Though these figures represent a small increase on 1948, they cannot be considered excessive, and the position never gave rise to anxiety.

The majority of the cases occurred during the summer and early autumn, were distributed in different localities in the north and central districts and, with the exception of an adult infected whilst nursing a child suffering from paratyphoid, careful investigations failed to establish a common source of infection. One case almost certainly acquired the infection outside Gibraltar, and all the others had paid frequent visits to neighbouring towns where they consumed food and drank water, and thus may have contracted the disease there.

A patient notified as typhoid was eventually found to be suffering from a pulmonary affection whilst two others, though clinically considered as typhoid, were not confirmed bacteriologically.

Of the paratyphoid cases notified one proved to be due to infection by *Salmonella typhi murium*, a pure culture of which was grown from the faeces on several occasions.

Diphtheria

No case of diphtheria has been notified during the year.

Though the existing overcrowded living conditions must be considered favourable to the spread of this disease, there has been a marked decrease in its incidence since repatriation, as compared with the pre-evacuation period.

This cannot but be attributed to the large number of infants who were immunised during their stay in the United Kingdom.

The position may thus appear satisfactory but, if assessed critically, it affords no reason for complacency. The great majority of over two thousand children born since repatriation have not been immunized against this disease, whilst the protection afforded to those treated in England in infancy will have diminished after the lapse of time.

With such a large vulnerable child population at stake, and the existing unsatisfactory housing conditions, it would be living in a fool's paradise to expect the present happy state of affairs to continue indefinitely, and every effort should be made to ensure that the unprotected infants are immunized and the resistance of those attaining school age re-enforced.

Dysentery

Judging from the known prevalence of gastro-intestinal disorders, especially during the spring and autumn seasons, the notifications of dysentery which totalled eight (including one death) cannot be considered to represent the true incidence of the disease.

Many cases of Sonne infection are so atypical and of such a mild nature that a doctor is not consulted, whilst the effectiveness of modern chemotherapy often renders patients symptomless before bacteriological investigations can be carried out.

When food poisoning becomes notifiable under the new Food and Drugs Ordinance, it is expected that a more accurate assessment of the position will be possible.

The notified cases of dysentery were all of the bacillary type and included infections by salmonellae of the Flexner, Sonne and Newcastle groups.

No notifications of amoebic dysentery have been received during the year.

Tuberculosis

Twenty-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified in 1949. Deaths numbered eight. This represents an increase of five in the incidence and a decrease of four in the mor-

tality from the disease, as compared with the previous year, when the corresponding figures were seventeen and twelve respectively. The sexes were equally affected and of the cases notified three males and four females occurred in the fifteen to twenty-five years group.

The incidence and mortality rates for 1949 were 0.89 and 0.32 per thousand population respectively.

A table showing the incidence and mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis for the quinquennium 1945—1949 is appended.

The problem of tuberculosis is so intimately related with housing and the standard of living that so long as the present gross overcrowding and insanitary conditions prevail progress in prevention cannot come up to expectations, and even a small increase in the incidence of the disease must be viewed with apprehension.

However much may be accomplished in the treatment and supervision of tuberculosis, the enthusiasm and efforts of the clinician and health officer and the financial expenditure incurred in the prolonged institutional treatment necessary will be rendered valueless if on discharge from hospital a patient has, as often happens, to return to environmental conditions which played a major role in the causation of the illness, and under which he may inadvertently constitute a danger to others, especially children, in the event of a relapse.

Further, no anti-tuberculosis scheme, however comprehensive, can be considered complete unless it includes provision for rehabilitation of the ex-hospital patient by placing him, as far as practicable, in an employment or occupation suitable to his condition, thus ensuring against relapses and the danger of his being ostracized by his fellows, which may not only endanger his chances of re-establishing himself as a useful member of the community, but deter other sufferers from the disease from seeking treatment at a stage when it will prove effective.

Three cases of non pulmonary tuberculosis, one fatal, have been notified. The incidence and mortality rates per thousand population being .12 and .04 respectively.

Though these figures may be considered low, they indicate the necessity for the strict enforcement of the Milk and Dairies By-laws, which provide for the sterilization of imported, fresh milk before it is sold to the public.

Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1945—1949

<i>Year</i>	<i>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</i>		<i>Incidence per</i>	<i>Mortality per</i>
	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>1,000 Population</i>	<i>1,000 Population</i>
1945	42	7	2.4	0.4
1946	30	6	1.55	0.31
1947	31	7	1.52	0.34
1948	17	12	0.72	0.51
1949	22	8	0.89	0.32

Small-pox

No cases of small-pox have been notified during 1949.

A patient landed from the Bay suspected of suffering from the disease proved to be a case of chicken-pox.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	425*
Number who died before vaccination ...	10
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination ...	14
Certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	NIL
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	10
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1949) ...	330
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	61

(*includes 17 non-residents).

There have been no objectors to vaccination in 1949, of the 61 outstanding 59 had not attained the age of three months and notices were served on the remaining two.

In all, four hundred and thirty vaccinations and one hundred and ninety-seven revaccinations on children who had attained the age of twelve years, were performed during the year. The Public Vaccinator carried out three hundred and eighty-eight vaccinations and one hundred and seventy-nine revaccinations.

Owing to Gibraltar's vulnerable position as a maritime and air port and the many facilities for travel and contact between residents and countries where small-pox is endemic, it is of paramount importance that the general immunity of the population be kept at the highest level attainable by the vaccination of in-

phants, when three months old, and revaccination of children on attaining the age of twelve years, if it is to continue to be spared visitations by this loathsome disease which has so frequently scourged it in the past, before the vaccination laws were enacted and enforced.

Chicken-pox

Chicken-pox was prevalent during the winter and spring. A total of forty-four cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

Of the fifty-two cases notified, forty-two occurred during the winter and spring months. The long period of infectivity of this disease and the difficulty of establishing an early diagnosis often militate against the success of measures taken to limit its spread, whilst evidence of the effectiveness of preventive inoculations is not conclusive enough to justify advising its adoption on a general scale at present. There is evidence, however, that the *haemophilus pertussis* is sensitive to a new antibiotic, polymixin, which will reduce the severity and invalidism in the individual case, whilst experiments which are being carried out with vaccines indicate that prevention may soon be possible.

Measles

Twenty cases have been notified, thirteen of which occurred during the second quarter of the year.

Scarlet Fever

Three cases, one of which was complicated by nephritis and encephalitis, were notified during the year.

Undulant Fever

Two notifications have been received. One of the patients probably contracted the disease in Malta.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis

Three cases which occurred sporadically have been notified. There were no secondary infections.

Poliomyelitis

A single case in a young infant occurred during the year.

Mumps

Nine cases of mumps were notified during the year.

Rabies

A case of rabies occurred in a dog which had been imported illegally. The causative virus was reported by the Pasteur Institute at Tangier to be of a particularly virulent strain and fourteen persons who had been exposed to infection received anti-rabic treatment.

The owners of this animal and of another unregistered dog found in the same premises were subsequently convicted and fined, whilst in compliance with representations made by the Board of Health, notices were inserted in the newspapers reminding the public of the legal requirements with regards to the importation of dogs, and a schedule was added to the Animals and Birds Rules providing for a declaration of the origin of a dog to be made by applicants for licences.

The brains of two dogs which died under suspicious circumstances were sent for investigation to the Pasteur Institute but no evidence of rabies was detected in either case.

The large number of unmuzzled dogs wandering unrestrained about the town and wharves must be viewed with concern as constituting a constant menace to human beings and a grave danger of a widespread outbreak of rabies occurring before effective preventive measures could be taken to control its spread. The position is such as to warrant drastic action being taken to ensure strict compliance with the regulations.

Owing to the large number of stray and often diseased cats infesting the town, a campaign was carried out from 25th July to 19th August, 1949, during which 211 stray cats were caught and painlessly destroyed at the kennels.

Stray cats caught by Council cat catchers	
(for detention and destruction if unclaimed)	175
Cats delivered by private individuals	37
Cats claimed	1
<hr/>	
Total number of cats delivered to the Animal	
Sick Lines and painlessly destroyed	211

The kennels, where dogs and cats are kept under observation or painlessly destroyed, have continued to be in charge of the Commissioner of Police who has kindly supplied the following statistics of work done there during the year.

Number of stray dogs admitted	...	...	...	...	...	66
Number of stray dogs claimed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of stray dogs destroyed	...	...	...	...	...	56

Number of dogs detained after biting persons	...	...	3
Number of dogs claimed after detention	...	...	2
Number of dogs destroyed...	...	...	1
Number of dogs detained as contacts of rabies	...	...	5
Dogs returned to owner after quarantine	...	...	1
Destroyed	...	...	4
Dogs detained at owners request	...	...	30
Dogs returned	...	...	29
Dogs destroyed	...	...	1
Dogs humanely destroyed at owner's request	...	...	85

In June 1949, the powers and duties (otherwise than in relation to horses) conferred and imposed upon a Government Veterinary Surgeon by the Animals and Birds Ordinance were vested in the Medical Officer of Health.

In the absence of a Veterinary Surgeon this enactment facilitates the control and investigation by the Health Officer of diseases in animals which are communicable to man, and will enable him to expedite the institution of preventive measures when necessary.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1949

Notifiable Disease	NUMBER OF CASES														Districts			No. of cases removed to Hospital	
	All Ages	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North	Central		South
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Enteric Fever ...	14	—	—	—	1	2	2	4	4	1	2	1	—	—	—	5	9	—	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	21
Measles ...	20	—	—	—	5	5	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	13	5	—
Chicken Pox ...	44	1	1	9	3	8	18	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	28	13	—
Pertussis ...	52	4	4	24	10	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	42	4	—
Mumps ...	9	—	—	1	1	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—
Dysentery ...	8	2	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	1	2
Tuberculosis non-respiratory...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Undulant Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
TOTALS	181	7	6	47	20	27	36	8	9	11	4	4	2	—	—	20	133	28	34

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population, 1949

	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	1	3	6	5	—	1	6	14	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	1	3	8	2	3	—	5	—	2	1	3	1	2	3	6	22	8
Measles ...	3	—	—	3	—	4	9	13	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	2	20	—
Chicken Pox	1	16	13	30	5	2	—	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	6	6	44	—
Pertussis	2	5	15	22	6	13	1	20	2	5	—	7	2	—	1	3	52	—
Mumps ...	—	2	6	8	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Dysentery	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	6	8	—
Tuberculosis non-respiratory...	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	1
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	3	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	—
Totals	11	26	38	75	15	24	11	50	6	9	6	21	14	4	17	35	181	10

**Infectious Diseases — Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or brought into
Town for Treatment, 1949**

	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	3	1	5	4	7	—	11	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	18	3
Pertussis	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Tuberculosis non-respiratory...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	1	3	1	5	4	11	—	15	2	—	—	2	1	1	1	3	25	3

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

With the exception of two occasions in the autumn when possibly, due to atmospheric conditions, a sudden inexplicable invasion by myriads of flies occurred in the north and parts of the central districts of the town in the course of a few hours, these insects cannot be said to have been a marked nuisance during the year.

The five percent solution of D.D.T. for use in sprayers which is on sale at the Public Health Department has, apparently, continued to be popular with the residents, eight hundred and seventy-five and a half gallons having been sold during the year.

Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes have proved troublesome on occasions in the south district and in the south-west sector of the central district, but cannot otherwise be considered to have been abnormally prevalent during the year. In every case investigations have been carried out by the sanitary inspectors and their assistants and breeding places eradicated.

All anti-mosquito measures have been effected by the regular sanitary staff of the department without the employment of extra personnel.

Some forty-five specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found:—

<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	...	...	5	(between May and November)
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	...	6	(between May and July)	
<i>Culex pipiens</i>	...	...	34	(between April & November)

During 29,681 visits of inspections, one hundred and seven breeding places were found, as follows:—

Tubs	...	...	...	...	20
Barrels	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	82

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1949

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	2,114						NIL
February	2,178						NIL
March	2,334			3			3
April	2,672			3	4		7
May	2,276		3	9	21		33
June	2,236	2	4	9	4	2	21
July	3,000	3	8	4	4	1	20
August	2,349		1	4	1	1	7
September	2,267			3		2	5
October	3,029			1		3	4
November	2,453	2	3	1		1	7
December	2,773						NIL
Totals	29,681	7	19	37	34	10	107

Breeding places found consisted of:—Washing tubs, drains drinking troughs, fresh water tanks, flushing tanks, tubs, barrels, pits &c.

RODENT CONTROL

The control of rat and mouse infestation has been effectively maintained during the year. Civilian and Services personnel have continued to co-operate closely in carrying out anti-rodent activities, thereby ensuring the efficacy of the measures, and enabling the most economical use to be made of available baits and poisons without impairing efficiency.

The treatment of sewers, storm water drains and electricity and telephone inspection pits has been intensified this last year with added satisfactory results.

A small increase in the number of takes was noticed during the third quarter of the year which, judging from the number of carcasses of mice recovered, may probably have been due to an increased prevalence of these rodents, but to ensure against any possible rise in the rat population two extra men were employed, temporarily, in the early autumn to assist the permanent staff till the end of the year. The carcasses of fourteen rats, and four fleas were examined for the presence of plague bacilli with negative results.

A total of 61,187 points were prebaited and 27,871 poison baits were subsequently laid in 1,123 premises by civilian and service teams during the year, from which 16,835 takes were recorded—the estimated kill being 5,194.

The Anti-Rat Coordinating Committee met four times during the year.

RODENT CONTROL—SUMMARY OF TREATMENT BY COMBINED SERVICES DURING 1949

Service	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			No. of Premises Treated	Estimated Kill
				RR	RN	MM		
Civilian ...	22,101	14,069	9,392	39	2	546	500	3,240
Military ...	15,860	8,023	4,565	27	—	15	138	904
H.M. Dockyard...	21,549	4,659	2,215	14	—	41	289	638
R.A.F. ...	1,279	767	366	3	—	8	79	133
Sewers, Drains and Electric Light and Telephone Pits ...	398	353	297	1	3	—	117 manholes	276
Totals ...	61,187	27,871	16,835	84	5	610	1,123	5,194

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1949

Campaign Weeks	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Takes Recorded	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1 / 49-13 / 49	124	5,979	3,682	2,620	6		105	1,172
14 / 49-26 / 49	91	4,221	2,972	1,902	23		112	755
27 / 49-39 / 49	137	6,273	3,886	2,535	7	2	189	679
40 / 49-52 / 49	148	5,628	3,529	2,335	3		140	635
Totals ...	500	22,101	14,069	9,392	39	2	546	3,241

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, DRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS DURING
THE YEAR 1949

Campaign Week	Date	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Manholes Treated	Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM		
20/49	16/5/49-20/5/49	40	40	40	1	3	—	11	43
21/49	23/5/49-27/5/49	53	38	35	—	—	—	15	28
22/49	30/5/49- 3/6/49	98	89	57	—	—	—	33	54
24/49	13/6/49-17/6/49	144	123	114	—	—	—	37	134
26/49	26/6/49- 1/7/49	63	63	51	—	—	—	21	16
	Totals ...	398	353	297	1	3	—	117	276

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

Though under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance the Medical Officer of Health is vested with the status of a Health Officer which empowers him to board ships, examine persons suspected of suffering from infectious disease and order quarantine measures to be imposed when necessary, the port health work is under the control of Government and is performed by two medical practitioners (who are employed part time as Health Officers) and a number of Boarding Officers working under the administration of the Captain of the Port, to whom I am indebted for the following information.

“Every vessel arriving in the Colony is visited by a Boarding or Health Officer and where any infectious disease exists or is suspected to exist on board any vessel, or where the Boarding or Health Officer considers that the public health cannot otherwise be adequately safeguarded, such vessel is placed in quarantine and subjected to control under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance and Rules.

“Where a ship arrives and during the voyage there has been a death from illness suspected to be of an infectious nature or a case of such illness; or the ship has called at an infected port; or plague has occurred or been suspected amongst rats, such ship is put-by for inspection by the Health Officer, and control, as circumstances may require.

“Where any person proposes to embark on a ship and the Health Officer suspects such person to be suffering from plague, cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox, the Health Officer, after due examination, may prohibit his embarkation.

“Where Gibraltar is declared to be infected with plague, cholera or yellow fever; or typhus fever or smallpox exists therein in an epidemic form, the Health Officer may examine any person on board or proposing to embark on any ship and take all other prescribed measures relating to plague, cholera or yellow fever.”

Number of ships entered during 1949	...	...	...	5,574
Number visited by the Health Officer	...	...	...	132
Placed in quarantine	...	...	...	Nil

Number of patients landed suffering from									
infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	

Air

The Senior Medical Officer of the Royal Air Force, which is in sole control of the airport, acts as Health Officer in all health matters concerning air navigation.

Representations have been made this year by the Board of Health to have the Gibraltar Airport classed as an authorised and sanitary aerodrome under the terms of the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation of 1944.

Both the Maritime and Air Health Officers are members of the Board of Health.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to the City Engineer Mr. F. L. Ruggeri, M.B.E., M.I.Mun.E., M.I. Struct.E., for assistance in the preparation of this part of the report.

Water Supply

Potable Water: The population obtain potable water by two methods (a) from roof catchments and underground tanks attached to each individual house; and (b) from the City Council's supply. The latter is mainly piped direct to the house through a permanent meter but a high proportion is drawn by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains. In addition potable water is supplied through temporary meters and flexible hoses to private underground tanks in the dry season, and small quantities by tank lorry to those consumers whose premises are not within a reasonable distance from the distributing mains.

All water barrels are steam sterilized at weekly intervals. The sanitary staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from 66 suspected tanks were taken in 1949.

There was little rain during the early part of the year so that the dry season started with the reservoirs holding only five and a half million gallons, about five million gallons less than the previous year, which rendered the importation of potable water from the United Kingdom and other countries necessary. Three tankers arrived and delivered over four and a half million gallons of water into the Council's reservoirs.

Supplies of drinking water to merchant shipping were curtailed during the dry season until the tankers arrived, but the ration was never as low as the previous year — the minimum being fifteen gallons per head per day to the next port of call as compared to four gallons in 1948. Boiler water was supplied to ships direct from North Front Wells via tanks loaded at Watering Jetty.

The installation of the Base Exchange Water Softening Plant was completed in March and brought into use forthwith. The quality of the water improved considerably after treatment and in spite of abnormally low rainfall an average of 600,000 gallons per week were drawn from the wells throughout the year. The hardness of well water is reduced from approximately thirty-

two degrees before treatment to zero after, and then blended with raw water to supply it at the desired degree of hardness, viz. ten degrees. The blended water after being chloraminated is pumped into a service tank and then lifted into the Council's reservoirs for distribution to the public, after it has been subjected to a bacteriological examination to establish its purity.

With the advent of rain early in September and October the water position improved and very heavy rain in November and December enabled the reservoirs to be filled beyond normal capacity.

The year ended with all tanks full and rain water being allowed to run into the brackish water reservoirs rather than running to waste.

The storage capacity of the tanks remained unchanged at 13,848,742 gallons, or barely eighteen weeks supply at current rates of consumption.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1949 totalled 30.61 inches.

The following table shows the water collected and issued during the year:—

Water collected from Council's catchments	14,348,168	gallons
Water collected from Dockyard catchments	947,113	„
Water pumped from North Front Wells to reservoirs	23,875,563	„
Water imported by tankers... ..	4,631,800	„
Total ...		43,802,644 gallons

Fresh water issued from reservoirs as follows:—

To Town	27,845,688	gallons
To Shipping (Waterport)	6,504,255	„
To Shipping (Admiralty)	921,600	„
Loss	705,467	„
Total ...		35,977,010 gallons

Fresh water issued direct from wells:—

To Shipping (Watering Jetty)	4,578,300	gallons
To North Front Camps	729,400	„
To Private consumers	714,200	„
To City Council works and purposes	646,100	„
Total ...		6,668,000 gallons

Brackish Water

Due to various break-downs in the pumping plant at Hesses and in spite of the fact that repairs were effected with the least possible delay, interruptions in the supply of brackish water could not be avoided.

These failures are likely to continue and the efficiency of the pumps to diminish. They are now only worked to from half to two-thirds of their capacity, but as it was feared that a major break-down might occur at any moment precautions were taken to face that eventuality.

The existing plant is badly in need of complete overhaul and the necessary spare parts are available, but as these repairs are extensive and will require several weeks to carry out, the work cannot be undertaken until the new plant is erected and brought into service.

The pumping station at Hesses and the twelve inch rising main from this Station to the Brackish Water Reservoirs at Moorish Castle began to fail early in 1947, and schemes were prepared for the replacement of one of the steam pumps at Hesses, the erection of an auxiliary pumping station at Ragged Staff and the laying of a new rising main. The schemes were submitted to the Council without delay and approved. The makers promised delivery of the plant in August, 1949, but in June of that year the Crown Agents advised the Council that the contractors regretted that owing to manufacturing difficulties they would be unable to effect delivery until December, 1949. Late in December the Crown Agents wrote informing the Council that no definite delivery date could be given.

The pumps are now expected to be ready for despatch in May, 1950, and their erection will proceed with the utmost haste when received.

Amount of brackish water (used for sanitary purposes) pumped during the year, 388,025,000 gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

There has been no change in the arrangements for the collection and disposal of house refuse.

Sewage Disposal

As noted in last year's report, the existing foul drainage facilities at North Front are now insufficient fully to meet the requirements.

A scheme for the improvement and extension of these facilities was submitted by the City Engineer and approved by the Council in December. Work will be put in hand as soon as materials become available.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1949 was 133,041,052 gallons—a slight decrease on that of the previous year.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

During the year several streets were resurfaced with tarmacadam including the whole of Smith Dorrien Avenue and parts of Main Street.

The bridge over the Caledonian Canal at Eastern Beach Road was completed before the bathing season, and demolitions of obstructions and reinstatements at this road were also carried out, thus enabling the public to make use of it once again—but only up to a safe distance from the runway.

Work on the bridge over the Caledonian Canal in Devil's Tower Road was started late in December and it is expected that improvements and realignment of Devil's Tower Road will be completed in 1950.

In December work on improvements to Sir Herbert Miles Premenade, including the provision of additional seats and of a railing on the east side, was commenced.

Demolitions necessary for adapting the plot of land near Giralda Tower as an open space for use by the public were also started late in the year.

The surfacing and drainage of the unpaved streets on the temporary housing estate at Glacis was undertaken and completed by the Public Works Department.

In addition to the normal sweeping of streets, a system of periodical washing is customary in Gibraltar. However, due to the critical brackish water position the washing of streets had to be curtailed to a great extent.

Public Baths

There has been a reduction in the number of bathers frequenting Montagu Sea Bathing establishments. This may be attributed to the increasing popularity of the beaches on the eastern side of the Rock. Fifty thousand nine hundred and eighty-six admissions were recorded at Montagu Baths, and the Tarik slipper baths were used by some 9,692 persons in 1949.

WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

The summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors tabled below shows an increase of 4,394 in the number of house-to-house inspections as compared with 1949. A large proportion of these were made in compliance with requests from the Resettlement Board for information on accommodation and living conditions of applicants for rehousing (vide section on housing).

One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four visits to eating houses were made, and one hundred and forty-two samples of food were taken for analysis in efforts to improve the standard of hygiene in food catering establishments and ensure the utmost possible cleanliness in the handling, preparation and exposure of food for sale. The corresponding figures for the previous year were one thousand and ninety, and ninety-nine respectively.

Summary of Work Done by the Sanitary Inspectors

Complaints received :

Written	8
Verbal	702

Premises Inspected :

General inspection	6
House-to-house inspection	16,898

Statutory Notices :

General defects	11
Minor nuisances	487

Nuisances Found :

Defective drains	160
Obstructed drains... ..	486
Defective W.Cs.	70
Defective W.C. fittings... ..	383
Defective water fittings	169
Defective rainwater pipes	69
Defective eavesgutters... ..	94
Defective roofs	115
Defective yard paving... ..	10
Dampness	22
Premises dirty	83
Defective or no dust bin	132

Other minor defects	1,147
Suspected pollution of water in underground tanks	66
Underground tank not insect proof	5
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover ...	5
Brackish water running to waste	142
Street water fittings found defective	40
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	24
Premises disinfested for vermin &c.	28
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	3,659
Visits of enquiry re infectious disease	137
Cases removed in the ambulance—Local	225
—Bay	71
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis ...	142
Visits to milk shops	111
Visits to eating houses	1,834
Visits to mineral water factories	238
Visits to common lodging houses	101
Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	3,256
Vaccination notices served	520
Legal proceedings instituted	5

Foodstuffs &c., condemned as unsound—

Ham	78 lbs. 11 ozs.
Pigs Feet	6,331 lbs.
Chocolate Bars	136 dozen.
Horlicks Tablets... ..	581 pockets size tins.
Expired ampoules (medicinal) ...	354 boxes.

Common Lodging Houses

The only existing common lodging house in Gibraltar was visited regularly during the year. No infringement of the Bye-laws was on any occasion noted, nor have any cases of infectious disease occurred in it during the year.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH & DISEASE

Gibraltar's food supplies during the year have been adequate. Rationing of essential foods has continued to be imposed and thus an equitable distribution of available supplies has been ensured.

In November it was deemed necessary to ration bread to a pound per person daily, which together with a rise in the price to fourpence per loaf of fourteen ounces, cannot but have given rise to some anxiety to many of the lower wage earners with large families in whose dietary bread predominates.

Groceries

The major proportion of the supplies of groceries is imported through the United Kingdom, and have usually proved satisfactory.

Meat

With the exception of small quantities of fresh meat introduced from Spain under special arrangements for the use of the Hebrew Community, supplies for the town are imported frozen, jointly with the Services provisions and stored in refrigerators by the Military Authorities from which they are issued when required. Pork, except on rare occasions has been conspicuous by its absence. The quality of the meat has been consistently good, but supplies of fresh meat which at present appear to be very remote would provide a healthy and desirable addition to the diet.

Supplies of poultry from Spain have been adequate, the controlled price being 2/6d. per pound.

Eggs

Eggs which are imported from Spain, Tangier and Casablanca have, at times, been scarce but on the whole supplies have been adequate. Prices have ranged from 2/6d. to 5/6d. per dozen which make this source of fresh, first class protein prohibitive to the lower income groups.

Fruit and Vegetables

Regular and ample supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables come into town daily from Spain, and at times in smaller quantities from Tangier. They are either exposed for sale in the

Markets and numerous shops in town, or hawked about the streets by licenced itinerant vendors. An average of sixty tickets have been issued daily to street vendors during the year.

Fresh Fish

Through failure of supplies from Algeciras since August, for reasons beyond the control of the Markets Authorities, the average daily importation of fresh fish fell from 2,200 to 1,500 pounds. The principal source during the last four months has been La Linea, and there have been occasional shipments from local trawlers. Local supplies from Catalan Bay are so small as to be considered negligible. Though supplies have thus appreciably diminished there has been no real scarcity except on occasions when, owing to weather conditions, fishing has been at a standstill. All fish is inspected by the Markets Inspectors before being exposed for sale in the markets or by fish vendors in the streets; the latter have to obtain a ticket daily from the Markets Authorities before they can exercise their trade.

An average of twenty-five tickets have been issued daily to these vendors.

Condemnation of Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and condemned: —

	<i>Health Department Inspectors</i>	<i>Market Inspectors</i>
Meat		2,551 lbs.
Ham	78 lbs. 11 ozs.	
Pigs Feet	6,331 lbs.	
Sausages		142 lbs.
Smoked Pork		68 lbs.
Fat		68 lbs.
Offal		414 lbs.
Poultry		460 lbs.
Fish		628 lbs.
Cockles		860 lbs.
Chocolate bars	136 dozen	
Horlicks Tablets	581 tins	

Milk

The quantity of cows' and goats' milk imported from Spain may be considered negligible for practical purposes barely a hundred pints a day; thus it may be said that supplies are essen-

tially tinned—condensed or evaporated, the normal ration per person being one tin (roughly two pints) weekly. Children under ten are allowed extra rations.

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Bye-laws all fresh milk imported into Gibraltar must be boiled in Gibraltar before it is sold to the public. Only on two occasions were samples found not to have been treated effectively.

Ice-Cream

All premises wherein it has been proposed to manufacture ice-cream have been inspected by the Medical Officer of Health personally before licences were granted, and were subsequently submitted to strict surveillance by the sanitary staff. Samples were taken frequently and only on five occasions were they found unsatisfactory. The licence of one manufacturer was suspended for a time following repeated findings of contamination of his products.

Ice-cream can be a palatable and useful source of nourishment if properly manufactured under clean conditions, but it may constitute a danger to the public being easily contaminated by the causative organisms of typhoid fever, dysentery, diphtheria and other diseases, and for this reason it is necessary that the strictest control be exercised over its preparation and sale.

Under the new Food and Drugs Ordinance which it is expected will be enforced at an early date, powers are vested in the Sanitary Authorities which will enable them to expedite taking preventive measures in the event of products being found unsatisfactory.

Lack of space and of a plentiful supply of fresh, hot and cold water handicap manufacturers in their efforts to produce satisfactory products, but on the whole it may be said that the cooperation and response by the majority to suggestions made by the Health Department officials to ensure cleanliness and purity of their ice-cream has been satisfactory.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

The most scrupulous care in the preparation, handling, serving and exposure of food for sale is of paramount importance to the health and welfare of a people, and for this reason owners of catering establishments, restaurants, confectioneries, cafes and fruit shops, as well as street vendors of food must be registered with the City Council under the Food Vendors Bye-laws.

Again, as in the case of ice-cream shops, lack of space and of an abundance of fresh water render the ideal difficult of attainment, but even taking these facts into consideration, it cannot be said that the available space and facilities are always exploited to their full possibilities and often much is left undone which with good will, reasonable care and ingenuity could be accomplished to improve the position.

The importance of providing adequate facilities for food handlers to wash their hands frequently, and particularly after using the toilet, is not always fully appreciated, and in the hurry and scurry under which work has to be carried out at times in some food catering establishments, it is the experience of many concerned with public health matters that even such elementary precautions are apt to be forgotten or slovenly effected. Owners and supervisors of these establishments should insist and personally satisfy themselves that the highest standards of cleanliness are observed by their employees in handling, preparing and serving food.

There has been a tendency of late for owners of small confectioneries and other food establishments to extend their activities to the sale of tobacco and other articles in their shops. Though the sale of boiled sweets, chocolates and biscuits may, under special circumstances, be permitted in some small tobacconist shops provided they are sold in their original wrappers or cartons, confectioners should restrict their sales to cakes, pastries and sweets since many of these commodities frequently contain cream, an article which can easily be contaminated, and may become the vector of diseases dangerous to human beings.

One thousand eight hundred and thirty-four visits of inspection have been made to these food establishments by the sanitary staff during the year who, in the course of their visits discuss difficulties with the owners and advise them on how best to surmount them. With rare exceptions, it may be said that cooperation and response by owners to suggestions for improvements have been satisfactory.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Housing

The construction of temporary and permanent houses has continued unabated throughout the year. Four blocks of the permanent buildings at Governor's Meadow rendering two hundred and fifty flats have been finished, and are actually occupied or on the way to being allotted, whilst the remaining blocks are expected to be ready for occupation early in 1950. Unfortunately, as was envisaged by Major Mountain in his Annual Report for 1948, the rentals of these flats have proved too high for some of the families in most need of rehousing, and for this reason proffered accommodation has often been refused.

A number of simpler tenements have, however, been built in other parts of the Town, and others are under construction and it is hoped that the rentals of these will prove to be more within the reach of these families.

The following information relating to the position of housing at the end of 1949 has been kindly supplied by the Commissioner of Lands and Works.

Houses completed in 1949

<i>Temporary</i>	—27 Nissen Huts comprising	39 dwellings (and a school)
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<i>Permanent</i>	— 4 Buildings (Governor's Meadow)	250 flats
	4 Buildings at Mount Road	4 dwellings
	1 Building, Witham's Road	8 flats

Houses completed since the inception of the Building Scheme till the end of 1949

<i>Temporary</i>	706 dwellings
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<i>Permanent</i>	7 Buildings	326 dwellings
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Permanent Houses under Construction

3 Buildings	65 dwellings
Contemplated	28 dwellings

No further construction of temporary houses is contemplated.

Housing has always been, is at present, and without wishing to appear pessimistic, will continue to be Gibraltar's outstand-

ing problem. With an ever increasing population and limited building space it cannot be considered otherwise. Though some amelioration has resulted by the completion and occupation of some of the permanent government buildings in Governor's Meadow, the improvement is more apparent than real, and the anticipated relief of overcrowding has remained to a great extent unfulfilled by the necessity of accommodating, by the end of 1949, the remaining evacuees from the United Kingdom and Tangier and of vacating the families domiciled at the R.N. Air Station at North Front. Whilst a large proportion of the population is condemned to live herded together in ill-lit, ill-ventilated and insanitary dwellings without privacy or comfort and often without adequate facilities for washing, cooking or storing of food, it would be wishful thinking to consider that anything beyond the fringes of the problem has been touched.

The dilapidated and insanitary state of many of the houses, particularly those occupied by the lower wage earners, the rising cost of labour and materials in contrast with the diminished productiveness to the house owners and the difficulty of providing alternative accommodation whilst repairs are being carried out, have militated against and hampered the work of resettlement and rendered re-accommodation difficult.

Though following representations from the Council to the Government certain minimum standards of accommodation were agreed upon to prevent the perpetuation of overcrowding in new buildings, the lack of a Housing Ordinance and the very limited powers conferred under the Public Health Ordinance restrict the work of the Public Health Department, and when combined with the adverse factors already noted, often create almost insurmountable difficulties which can only be fully appreciated by the few who are called upon to solve them.

Some idea may be gathered of the magnitude of the task and the time spent on matters concerned with housing when it is stated that close on 1,500 applications for rehousing have been reported upon for the Resettlement Board, after inspection of the premises concerned by the Department's Inspectorate, during the year under review.

Town Planning

The Building (Interim Control) Ordinance, 1947, was amended in 1949 to extend the period of enforcement to four years.

Regular meetings have continued to be held by the Central Planning Commission, appointed under the provisions of the

Ordinance throughout the year, at which plans for new building projects and schemes for improvements have been considered.

It is problematical whether under the present state of financial stress and need for economy it will be possible to implement some of the major schemes contemplated in the near future, and the danger of delaying urgent necessary repairs to existing houses and reconstruction of others which would help to relieve overcrowding, through uncertainty as to the implications of some of these projects, should not be overlooked.

Seventy-five applications for altering existing buildings or for the erection of new structures have been considered and reported on under the powers vested in the City Council by the Public Health Ordinance.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A fleet of four ambulances is maintained by the City Council primarily for the transport of cases of infectious disease to which the Council are committed, but which, in fact, constitutes the only organized civilian ambulance service available for the conveyance of patients from the civil population and the Bay.

One ex ambulance has been converted into a hearse and attends practically all funerals.

Of a total of two hundred and ninety-six patients conveyed by the ambulances, eleven have been infectious local cases and seven from the Bay. The rest were all non-infectious cases or accidents.

Details of the work carried out by the service during the year follow—

	<i>Local Cases</i>	<i>Bay Cases</i>
Tuberculosis	7	2
Pneumonia	2	5
Maternity cases	19	—
Mental cases	12	2
Hernia	4	1
Bronchitis	4	2
Influenza	1	2
Appendicitis	3	8
Kidney disease	—	2
Typhoid Fever	3	1
Diabetes	4	—
Tonsillitis	—	1
Asthma	4	—
Venereal disease	—	1
Heart Disease	13	—
Malaria	—	1
Chicken pox	—	1
Dysentery	—	2
Meningitis	1	—
Enteritis	2	1
Fractures and Injuries	56	15
Miscellaneous (Medical and Surgical cases)	90	24
	<hr/> 225	<hr/> 71

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of bedding, clothing, etc., continued to be carried out at the Disinfection Station on Line Wall Road.

Months	Beds and Mattresses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Sundries	Totals
January	9		3		5	17
February	14	24	49	14	62	163
March	1722	70	227	2	703	2724
April	54	22	31	11	28	146
May	20	19	32	14	23	108
June	12	8	7	6	14	47
July	12	3	11		9	35
August	7	6	16	8	13	50
September	30	27	33	21	32	143
October	21	7	5	5	27	65
November	21	19	17	12	23	92
December	14	13	14	12	16	69
Totals	1936	218	445	105	955	3659

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred and ninety-two Council employees were medically examined during the year. The corresponding figure for 1948 was seventy-nine.

The majority of these examinations was carried out to assess the fitness of applicants for employment. A few concerned applications by employees for retirement or decision on cases where injuries or diseases were alleged to be wholly or in part attributable to the nature of the employee's work.

All cases suspected of suffering from pulmonary disease were referred to the Physician at the King George V. Chest Hospital, for radiological examination.

January	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
May	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
August	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
October	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
							<hr/>
							192 employees
							<hr/>

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Board which constitutes the coordinating body on medical matters between the Navy, Army, Air Force, Colonial Government Medical Services and the Public Health Authorities met regularly throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of some of the subjects discussed and on which recommendations have been made by the Board:—

Blood Transfusion Services:

Rabies and the importation and muzzling of dogs:

Anti-rat Campaign:

Yellow Fever inoculations:

Certificates of Inoculation and Vaccination required under the International Sanitary Convention:

Overcrowding:

Optimum age for infant vaccination:

Whooping cough vaccine:

Daily telegraph broadcast of Epidemiological Bulletins by the World Health Organisation:

Exclusion of children suffering from infectious diseases and their contacts from school:

General Medical Practitioner Service

By the arrival of another doctor the number of local, general medical practitioners has been increased to ten, giving a ratio of one to 2,458 total civil population.

A number of these doctors are engaged on part time colonial appointments which is desirable and advantageous to both the practitioners and the public since it establishes closer contact and cooperation with the Hospital Services and by extending their field of work and interests raises the standard of the general medical services of the Colony.

Nursing Services

The Nurses Registration Ordinance, 1948, came into operation on 1st January, 1949, and the Nurses Registration Regulations which provide for the conditions of registration and include a schedule which prescribes the syllabus of subjects for the examination for the Certificate of General Nursing were made by the Governor under Section 4 of this Ordinance in

July. These instruments provide a long felt want to legalise and define the status of nurses in the Colony.

A training school for nurses has been opened by the Government at the Colonial Hospital for which purpose a Sister Tutor has been specially appointed to the staff of the hospital. The facilities for training offered by this school, it is hoped, will attract suitably educated local girls to join the nursing profession and besides providing candidates for the nursing staff of the hospital and child welfare services, may encourage others, when qualified, to engage in domiciliary nursing of which the population stands in much need at present.

Legislation relevant to Medical and Public Health Interests enacted during the year

The Nurses Registration Ordinance, 1948.

The Nurses Registration Regulations, 1949.

The Bread (Rationing) Order, 1949.

Government Notice 185 made under the Animals and Birds Ordinance, 1948.

Amendment to Schedule of Dogs and Cats Rules.

Colonial Air Navigation Order, 1949.

Food and Drugs Ordinance.

Quarantine (Aerial Navigation) Rules.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
REPORT OF THE PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST,
GIBRALTAR

During 1949 there has been great variety and interest in the analytical work. Control has been maintained upon the quality of milk and many kinds of food, of waters, minerals, of ice-cream and of such other commodities being offered for sale to the public. In this work a wide assortment of determinations and tests has been made and employed, and, in respect of milk—for instance—determinations of specific gravity, fat content, total solids, non-fatty solids, and tests to determine whether or no a particular sample of milk has been boiled, have been carried out. A variety of chemicals, alcohols, oils, fats and mixed specimens from many sources, including ships and boilers have been examined.

In connection with analytical investigation it may not always be sufficiently recognised that if an analytical study is to be of maximum value—or, indeed, in some cases even reasonable—its exact object must be made clear. In respect of water, for example, what is desired to be known, and the uses to which the water is to be put, should be clearly stated. Also full information as to the source of a sample can often save needless work and expense, and very often the mode of sampling will be of great importance.

A limited amount of medico-legal work has been carried out.

The scope of Public Health laboratory work has comprised many different kinds of analytical and pathological investigations—ranging from chemical and bacteriological control of waters, foodstuffs, etc., to bacteriological, serological and other study of cases and contacts of cases of infectious illness—and some morbid anatomy of animals. No large-scale outbreak of epidemic disease has been met with, but a considerable number of intestinal infections, and an increased number of cases of thoracic pathology have been investigated.

Clinical pathology has continued much as before, but in all its sub-divisions, including the somewhat newer serology; certain advances have been made. With good cooperation a number of very instructive conditions have been studied. Haematological investigation has been increasing. The blood “Bank” at the Colonial Hospital has been maintained with some difficulty. On the other hand, more patients’ bloods are being

typed before any acute emergency arises—and that is, of course, highly desirable.

In histology certain more advanced staining methods have been put into use, with general advantage.

I have performed a number of active immunisations against yellow fever.

C. VOIGT, M.D., D.T.M.,
City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

Laboratory, 29th April, 1950.

LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT

Those shown in Column I were performed for the Colonial Hospital.
" " " " II " " " " King George V. Hospital.
" " " " III " " " " Infant and Child Welfare Centres.
" " " " IV " " " " Royal Navy.
" " " " V " " " " Royal Air Force and the Army.
" " " " VI " certain of the Public Health investigations—some not directly related to clinical cases—and other work performed for private medical practitioners, business firms and individuals.

	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	Totals
Clinical Pathological investigation upon:							
Blood Serology—Complement Fixation Reactions							
Wassermann tests	274		4	295	661	136	1,396
Gonococcal Flocculation tests, Kahn	2			32	218	1	253
Agglutination „Widal	273	25	2	295	661	132	1,388
„ „ for ‘cold’ agglutinin	15	8				43	66
„ „ for heterophile antibody (Paul Bunnell test)		1				2	3
Cultures					6	2	8
Haematology—grouping & tests for compatibility	4	1				19	24
Erthrocyte sedimentation rates	51	13				13	77
„ „ fragility tests	67		12			45	124
count of cells and platelets	1					1	2
bleeding and coagulation times	560	39	44	2		383	1,028
specific gravity	7					7	14
films—for parasites	12					12	24
„ „ blood picture, etc.	90	2	4			1	97
Chemistry —Albumen (plasma) estimation	1					1	2
Bilirubin—Van Den Bergh reactions	4					4	8
Icterus Index	5					1	6
Calcium	2	1				2	5
Chlorides	1					1	2
Cholesterol						1	
Creatinine							
Glucose	130					258	388
Fibrin	1					1	2
Globulin	1					1	2
Haemoglobin	219	18	8	2		113	360
Proteins—total—plasma	1					4	5
Urea	49	1				33	83
Uric Acid		1			1	1	3
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid Cytology—Cell counts	43				2	4	49
„ „ differential counts	8					1	9
Stained film of deposits—for organisms	43					3	46
Cultures	20						20
„ —for B. Tuberculosis	19					4	23
Wassermann Reactions	26				23	2	51
Chemical determinations—including Lange tests	43				23	10	76
Pleural, etc., Fluids Cytology. Cultures. Stained films and some chemistry.	21	56					77
Urine—General examination (reaction, S.P.G., increase of protein and reducing substances. Microscopical study of deposit)	199	3	32			707	941
Cultures	54	3	2			25	84
„ —for B. Tuberculosis	7	3	2			7	19
Other chemical tests and quantitative determinations than are included in the “general” examination above—							
Quantitative Glucose estimations	71					22	93
Tests for Ketones	71					22	93
Tests for bile acids, salts and pigments	11	2				30	43
Chloride estimations	4					4	8
Diazo R. Indican—test for etc.	2						2
Urea estimations						3	3
For Urobilin and/or Urobilinogen	4	2	2			4	12
In addition to unstained deposits examined of stained deposits there were examined	14					6	20
Spectroscopic examinations	4	2				6	12
Faeces Microscopical examinations.	62	2	10			32	106
Cultures	99	2	7			81	189
Chemical examinations	4					8	12
Sputum Microscopical examinations	81	1,041	6			49	1,177
Cultures	16	12	4			8	40
Gastric Contents, Lavage and Fractional Test Meals	58	35					93
Pus and Exudates, Swabs, etc.							
Cultures	308	9	11	3	3	84	418
Microscopical of stained films	157	7	9	2	1	99	275
Tissue Specimens Histological examinations	59					1	60
Animal Inoculations	2	2				10	14
Sera for “Dark Ground” Examination	12			8		29	49
Semen Microscopical						3	3
Hairs and Epithelium—Microscopical for fungi	7					2	9
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION—Public Health and Others:							
NOT included in the foregoing and made upon:—							
Waters	2			35	6	206	249
Foodstuffs						44	44
Other material	18	1	1			5	28
ANALYTICAL CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS made upon:							
Waters					16	1,281	1,332
Foodstuffs (and drugs)				35		71	71
Oils and Tars						12	12
Calculi and other material	2					18	20
MORBID ANATOMICAL EXAMINATIONS OF ANIMALS	2	2				10	14
TOTALS ...	3,323	1,320	163	709	1,621	4,031	11,167

